

## Blue-collar views

# The paranoia in IBM's boardroom



By Mike LaVelle

THE BERKELEY Barb, an underground newspaper in Berkeley, Cal., recently reprinted an eight-page document outlining International Business Machines Corp.'s plans to form a domestic corporate CIA to spy on and destabilize noncorporate America.

IBM's paranoid view concerned the "increasing radical-led political activity" such as "work slowdowns, day-care centers, women's and minorities' rights, and the general conditions of labor."

From Nov. 4 to 15, IBM held seminars on "Security: A Management Stall" for 19 of its security administrators in Glen Cove, N.Y. The International Association of Chiefs of Police had prepared a course outline in "Corporate protective services—IBM as a target of terrorists" and "projected possible response scenarios."

IBM CHAIRMAN Frank Cary has not denied the documents. He says that they "do not reflect IBM management's policies, concerns, or attitudes." What else was he going to say?

His statement is in the best tradition of the television series Mission: Impossible. Remember the line at the beginning of the program: "You realize if you are caught the director will disavow any knowledge of your actions."

I have copies of those IBM documents which the Berkeley Barb sent to me. Normally I would be suspicious of anything printed in the Berkeley Barb since I consider it a house organ of Berkeley's radical community.

If Frank Cary certifies the documents by responding to their release, then I have to believe that they are authentic. And they are frightening.

It appears from the documents that IBM has been flipped out by an organization calling itself The National Caucus of Labor Committees. The N.C.L.C. is an offshoot of the Maoist Progressive Labor Party and the Columbia College S.D.S., both centered in New York City in the late '60s.

Currently the N.C.L.C. has offices in 12 major cities from coast to coast. I have been to their Chicago office and they are young, mostly middle-class, and they are more fanatical than Mao's Red Guard. By comparison the latter look like conservative Republicans.

The N.C.L.C. are a gaggle of Marxist ideologists who are convinced that the United States is divided between them, the CIA, and the rest of us who are unwitting dupes or just plain unconscious.

Their hate literature on Leonard Woodcock, head of the United Auto Workers, The Rev. Jesse Jackson, director of Operation PUSH, Arnold Miller, president of the United Mine Workers, Ed Sadlowski, recently elected director of United Steel Workers District 31, and a host of others shows some sick minds at work.

THE N.C.L.C. seems to have plenty of money. Its members fly around the country without having to work like the real workers they'd like to liberate. If I were conspiracy-minded, I'd suspect some heavy corporate money behind the N.C.L.C. They are ready-made foils for a crackdown on labor.

If IBM and the N.C.L.C. want to freak me out, that's okay with me. [The IBM papers mention the N.C.L.C. roughly 20 times.] But I'm sure not going to be quiet when the corporate right wing paranoia of IBM would send out a platoon of spies and destabilizers to do a Watergate number on legitimate labor concerns.

If IBM and the International Association of Chiefs of Police think they have a radical problem now they should wait until some of their links are found in union halls around the country. That is not a "projected possible response scenario," it's the truth.

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